

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

21-10B

ORLEANS

EAS.626

Town/City: Town of Eastham

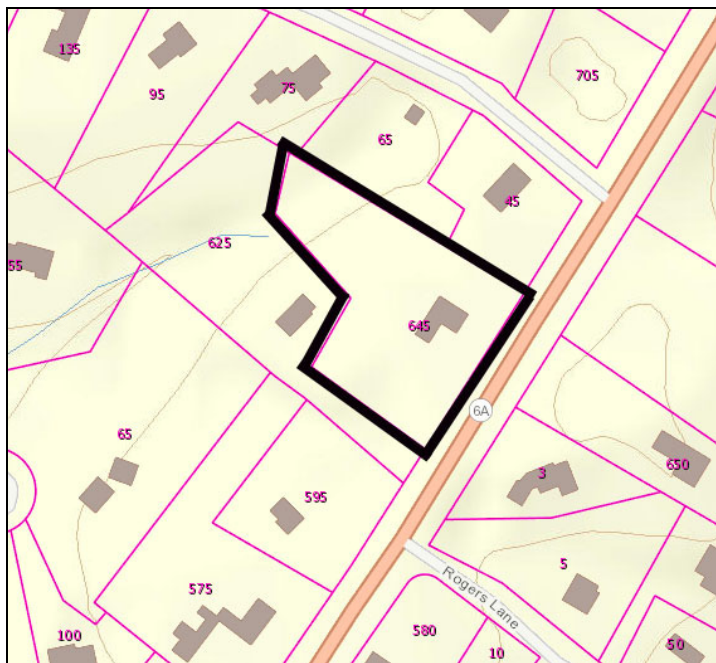
Place: (*neighborhood or village*): South Eastham

Photograph



View from east.

Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Larson Fisher Associates, Inc. with Kathryn Grover

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: May 2013

Address: 645 State Highway

Historic Name: Luther M. & Hattie E. Ryder House

Uses: Present: vacant single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: c. 1915

Source: deeds

Style/Form: undetermined

Architect/Builder: undetermined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete block

Wall/Trim: metal clapboard siding

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: none

Major Alterations (*with dates*): front porch enclosed; large 1-story addition to left (south) side ell (dates unknown)

Condition:

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.98 acre

Setting: The subject property is located on the west side of State Highway and is surrounded by single family land uses.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

645 STATE HIGHWAY

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The subject property contains a one-story house with a hipped roof that has a flattened peak. There is a small brick center chimney. A full front porch, supported by piers, has a shed roof that is a continuation of the main roof. The porch has been enclosed, date unknown.¹ A recessed left (south) side ell has been expanded with a large shed-roofed extension to its left. The house has been resided with at least two different materials, mostly wide metal clapboard. The end of the left side extension is clad with a narrower clapboard, possibly vinyl. There are some original two-over-two wood windows, but a number of other windows have been replaced with various types; some are boarded up. The house appears to be vacant at this time.

There is a shared unimproved driveway south of the house that provides access to this property and a flag lot behind (west) of it at 625 State Highway.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house at 645 State Highway was built about 1915 by Luther Marston Ryder on land his mother Mary deeded to him in 1905.² Born in 1851, Mary F. Mayo Ryder was the daughter of Abijah Mayo (1813-86) and Phebe Knowles Cobb (1836-91) and grew up in her parents' home at 45 South Eastham Street, just north of this property. In 1869 she married Franklin Ryder, a twenty-three-year-old Barnstable native and farmer whose family had been enumerated next to the Mayo household in the 1850 Eastham census. Born in 1847, Ryder was the son of Wilson and Betsey Ryder. The 1870 shows Abijah and Phebe Mayo and Franklin and Mary Mayo Ryder sharing the 45 South Eastham Street house; by then the Ryders had a one-year-old son, Joseph. By 1880 Franklin Ryder was working as a fisherman, and he and his wife Mary had four children—Joseph, Laura, George, and Luther M.

Born in January 1875, Luther M. Ryder married Dedham native Hattie Elizabeth White of Orleans in 1887 in Brewster. By 1900 he was working as a fisherman, and he and his wife had a boarder in their household, which Luther is here shown as owning; however, tax records for 1902 show him with no real property holdings. The 1910 census shows Luther M. Ryder as renting a house further south on State Highway. In this household were his wife Hattie and daughter Gertrude Louise, born in 1904. Hattie White Ryder died in 1913 at the age of thirty-six. By 1920 Luther Ryder had built on the lot his mother had deeded to him in 1905; he was still a fisherman, then and perhaps earlier working in Town Cove. Eastham tax records for 1926 show him with a house valued at \$1150, a poultry house valued at \$50, a fish processing house valued at \$300, and a half-acre homestead lot. He shared his home with his daughter Gertrude, then fifteen years old.

About 1925 Gertrude Ryder married coal company teamster Walter C. Eldredge, and the 1930 census shows Luther M. Ryder in a household with his daughter's family. He was still working as a shellfisherman, and his daughter and son-in-law had two children, Walter C. Jr. and Luther M. By 1940 Luther Ryder, then sixty-five, still shared the house with his daughter and grandchildren (Irene Eldredge was born about 1931), but his daughter had divorced and remarried. Her second husband Bert Blackmore, born in Maine, had been living in Jersey City, New Jersey in 1935; in 1940 he worked as a road builder for the town. According to her obituary, Gertrude Ryder Eldredge worked with her father in the shellfish business and later as a housekeeper and waitress.³

After the death of their mother Mary Mayo Ryder, in 1937 or 1938, Luther Ryder's siblings sold an adjacent 1.5-acre parcel to him from their mother's estate.⁴ Tax records for 1947 show Luther M. Ryder with a 2.5-acre homestead lot, a house worth \$1800, a poultry house worth \$50, a "stand" (probably a roadside produce or egg stand) valued at \$80, a garage, and the fish house, as well as several acres of land nearby. He died two years later, in 1949.

In 1959 Gertrude Ryder was divorced and she married Ralph D. Frost, an Orleans garage mechanic, *Cape Codder* typesetter, and World War II veteran. Ralph Frost came from his native Shrewsbury to Eastham after the war and worked in Judah Eldredge's Orleans garage for many years. The Frosts lived at 645 State Highway until illnesses compelled them both to move to the Cranberry Pointe Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center in Harwich. Gertrude Ryder Frost died there on 6 November 1999; her husband Ralph died ten days later. Town records continue to show them as owners of 645 State Highway.⁵

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Deyo, Simeon L., ed. *History of Barnstable County, Massachusetts, 1620-1890*. New York: H. W. Blake, 1890.

¹ No building permits are on file with the Town of Eastham for this property.

² Mary F. Ryder to Luther M. Ryder, 27 May 1905, Barnstable County Registry of Deeds (BCD) 271:328.

³ "Gertrude Eldredge Frost," *Cape Cod Times*, 8 November 1999.

⁴ Franklin Ryder, Joseph W. and Hattie Ryder; George W. and Lucy Ryder, Orleans, and Charles M. and Laura F. Perry, Hyannis, to Luther M. Ryder, 2 November 1938, BCD 547:396.

⁵ The last deed on record for the property is Gertrude L. Frost to Ralph D. and Gertrude L. Frost, 23 January 1975, BCD 2144:151.

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MAPS

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- Official Topographical Atlas of Massachusetts Compiled and Corrected by H. F. Walling and O. W. Gray.* Boston: Stedman, Brown and Lyon, 1871.
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PHOTOGRAPHS

(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2012-2013 unless otherwise noted)



View from southeast.



View from south (photo by Town of Eastham Assessor).